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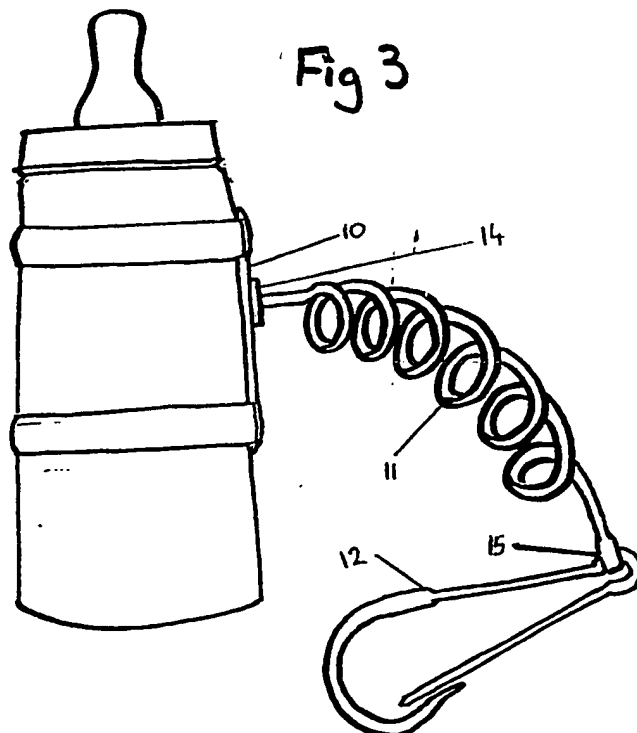
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(54) Portable drink/food container restrainer

(57) A container restrainer, which restrains a drink/food container from falling to the ground or leaving the vicinity that the user intends has a receptacle 10, consisting of a device that secures two separate stretchable bands, which are both stretched over the container to hold it firmly. A coiled flex 11 is joined 14 to the upper part of the band-securing device of the receptacle. This flex becomes partially extended so that a container, e.g. a baby's bottle can reach his/her mouth, yet when fully extended, the user can still retrieve the container. The flex's other end is joined 15 to an attaching device 12, which is attached to a receiving agent, e.g. a baby's buggy harness, a user's button hole etc.



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Fig 1

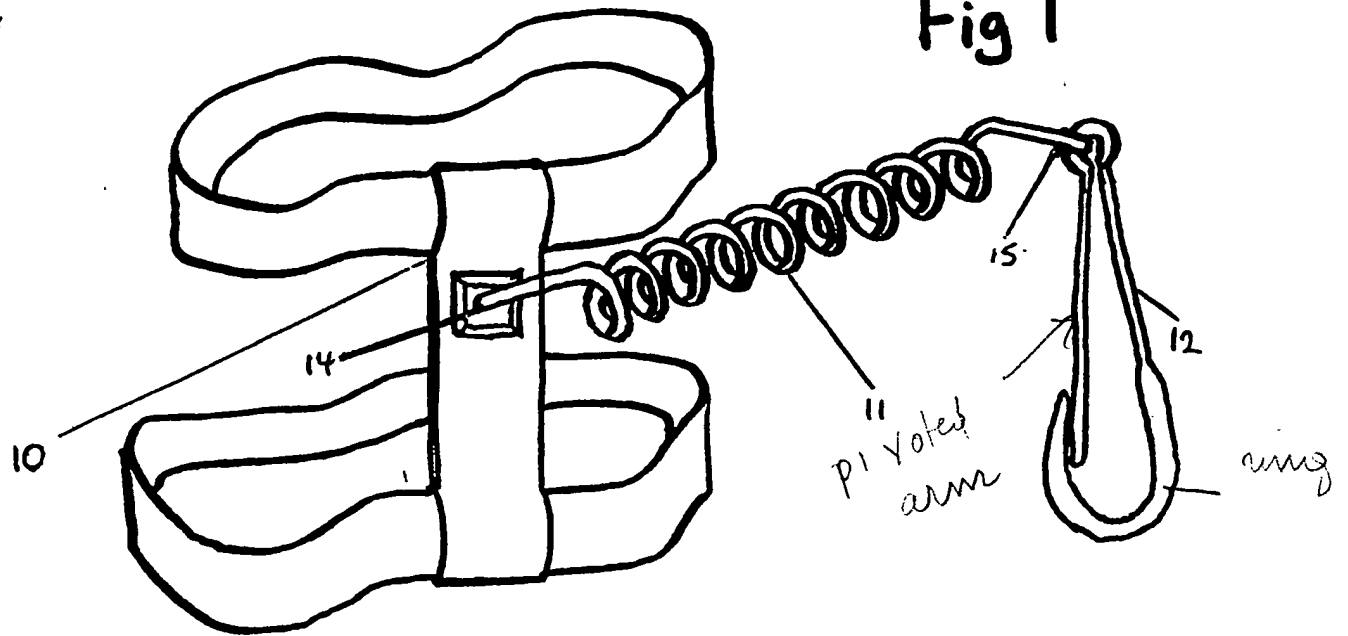
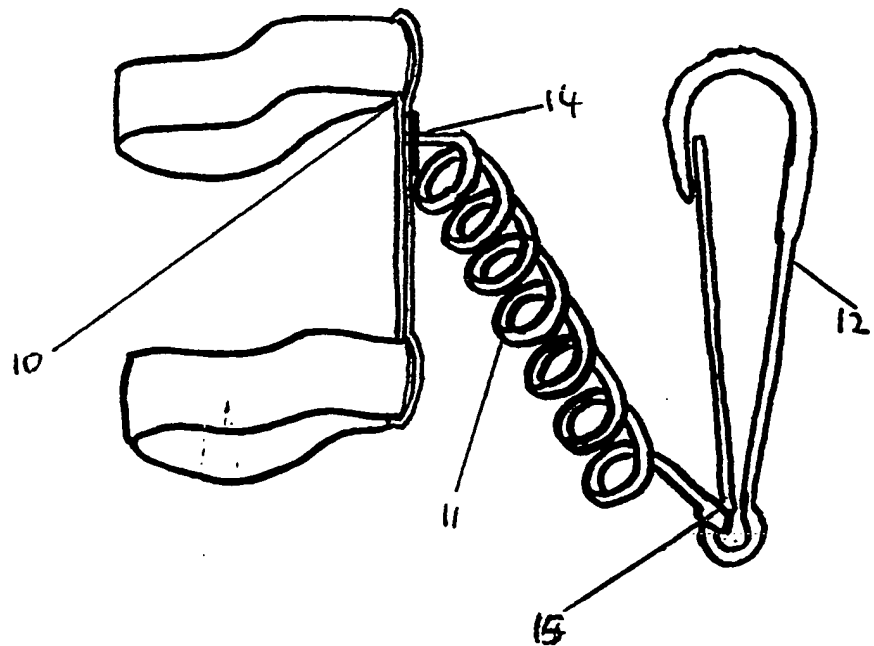
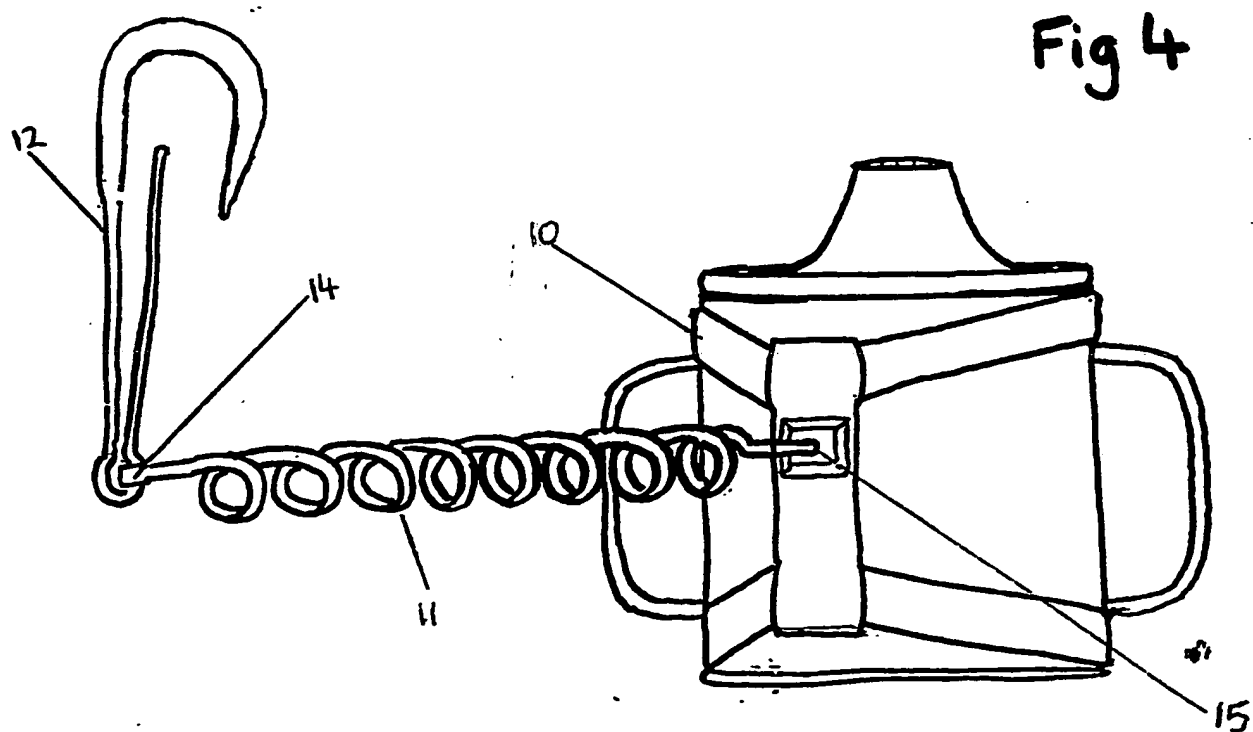
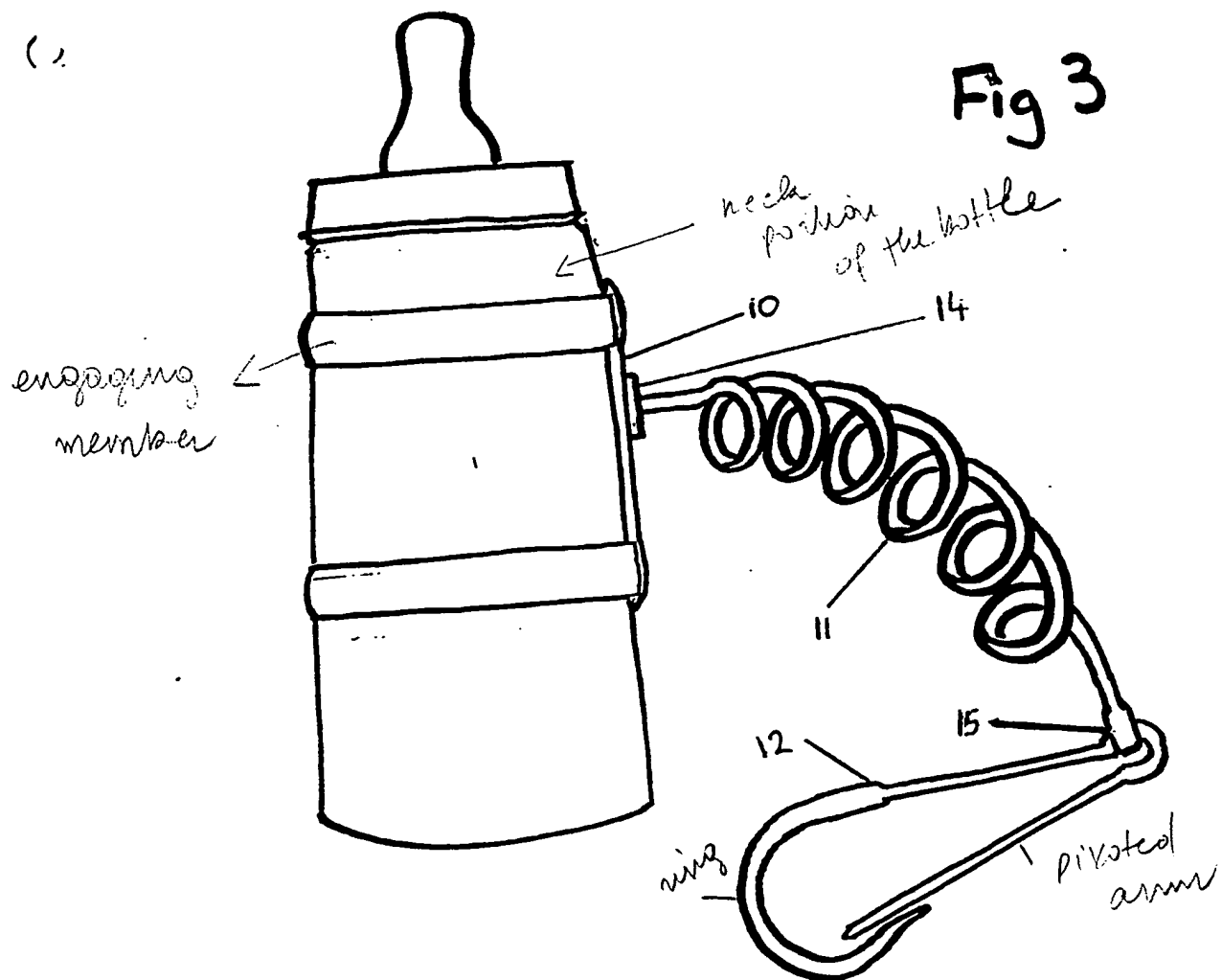


Fig 2





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PORTABLE DRINK/FOOD CONTAINER RESTRAINER

This invention relates to a portable drink/food container restrainer.

A portable drink/food container such as a baby's bottle or a jar of baby food, when held in the infant's hand can be accidentally or purposely dropped onto the ground which, even on a short journey, could result in a soiled, damaged or lost container. Time, energy and money could be wasted by stopping, looking for it, picking it up and cleaning or even having to replace it. Therefore, the container must be restrained to prevent this from happening.

The portable drink/food container restrainer is a device that restrains the container by securing it, with a large amount of flexibility for the user, the restrainer being attached to any appropriate article which the user desires. The stretching properties of the portable drink/food container restrainer's receptacle and its elasticity allows it to hold firmly containers of varying sizes and shapes as it can secure a container either widthways or lengthways. The coiled flex to which the receptacle is joined is able to extend in length to the user's needs, therefore, the portable drink/food container restrainer is also particularly useful for people in wheelchairs or who have difficulty in bending. Previous drink or food container restrainers have merely consisted of a tray with holes or indentations for the containers, but have not the flexibility, elasticity and versatility of the embodiment of this device.

According to the present invention, there is a portable restrainer comprising a receptacle for the container. This receptacle consists of a device such as a rigid strip holding two separate equal sized bands, which are made of a stretching material so that both the bands can stretch over the container with its contents in the most efficient way to secure the container and subsequently, when one wants to remove the container later, the bands are stretched wider again to release it.

The flex is joined to the upper portion of the band-holding strip of the receptacle to make it more difficult for the container to be overturned if accidentally dropped, -the flex being made of a coiled material such as coiled plastic, designed not to let the secured container reach the ground, but to allow the user full access and usage of the container as required. The coiled flex also reduces entanglement. The other end of the cable is joined to an attaching device, e.g. a plastic clip that can be attached firmly onto a receiving agent such as a baby's buggy/highchair harness or a user's buttonhole. To release the restrainer, detach the attaching device from the receiving agent, e.g. by unclipping it.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:-

Figure 1 shows the whole restrainer illustrating the receptacle with coiled flex and clip.

Figure 2 shows a side view of the receptacle, illustrating an example of how the stretch bands are held by the rigid strip.

Figure 3 demonstrates a container such as a baby's bottle being secured by the receptacle.

Figure 4 shows the clip, ready to clasp onto any receiving agent and the stretch bands of the receptacle accommodating and securing an awkwardly shaped container.

Referring to the drawing the portable drink/food container restrainer comprises a receptacle 10 consisting of a small rigid strip, which loops on the inside at the top and bottom, thus separating into two loops of equal size, each of which is bonded around part of one of the two equally sized stretchable bands, e.g. rubber bands, held through it as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. This strip keeps the bands from being unnecessarily entangled with each other, yet holds them together to form part of the receptacle. Both the rubber bands are stretched over the container with its contents in the most efficient way to secure it as shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. Subsequently, when the user wishes, the bands are stretched wider again so that the container can be released, the bands, after, automatically reverting back to their original size.

A coiled cable or flex 11 is joined 14 at one end to the upper part of the receptacle's rigid strip to reduce the possibility of the container being overturned if accidentally dropped. This type of cable or flex is used so that both in its unextended and fully extended state it enables the container to be easily reached by the user, yet not letting the container reach the ground and become soiled, but also, in a partially extended state will allow the container to reach the user's mouth, if necessary. A coiled flex also lessens the chances of any entanglement.

The other end of the flex is joined 15 to a clip 12, which attaches around the receiving agent (not shown) such as a baby's buggy/pram/highchair harness, a user's belt or

buttonhole etc., and unclips again when the user wishes to detach the whole restrainer from the receiving agent. The attachment of the restrainer to the receiving agent ensures that the container is restrained from leaving the vicinity where the user intends, so it is not lost, and also, that the entire portable drink/food container restrainer restrains the container from reaching the ground, thus preventing the container from becoming soiled or damaged.

Suggested dimensions (although they can be varied):

-rigid strip of the receptacle.....height approx. 5 cms
width approx. 1½cms

-stretchable bands of receptacle.....circumference
(unstretched) approx 15cms
height approx. 1 cm.

Possible variations to this invention:

Although the bands of the receptacle are preferably made of rubber, elastic or any lightweight washable material that can be stretched and will revert to original size when the container is removed is acceptable.

Although a double looped plastic strip as described in Fig. 2 is preferred for the receptacle, any lightweight washable material is acceptable, and although the double looped rigid strip is preferable, a single loop or any simple way that holds the bands securely, such as a strip with four holes, two holes for part of each band to be passed through and held, is acceptable.

Although a coiled plastic flex is preferred, any washable coiled flexible material is acceptable.

Although a plastic clip is preferred for attaching the whole restrainer to the receiver, any washable easily attached device is acceptable, such as a plastic ring that can be opened up, attached onto the receiving agent and shut to hold it firmly -or a buckle and strap.

Although bonding the cable/flex at one end directly to the plastic strip of the receptacle and at the other end directly onto the plastic clip is the main version of this invention, a ring joined to one end of the cable interlocked with a ring joined onto the plastic strip of the receptacle and a ring attached to the other end of the flex interlocked with the bottom curved part of the plastic clip or a ring joined to the plastic clip is an acceptable way of joining the restrainer together.

Although this invention is primarily for containers (portable) that hold food or drink., a secondary purpose could be for containers of other things such as small toys etc.

CLAIMS

1. A portable drink/food container restrainer comprising a coiled cable/flex, joined at one end to a stretchable receptacle to hold the container, and at the other end by an attaching device.
2. A portable drink/food container restrainer as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the materials used are easily carried and washable, e.g. rubber, elastic, plastic etc.
3. A portable drink/food container restrainer as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 2 wherein the bands of the receptacle can be stretched over a container (empty or holding appropriate contents) in the most efficient way to secure it and, when/if one wishes to remove the container later, subsequently, are stretched wider to release the container -the bands reverting to their original size when the container is removed.
4. A portable drink/food container restrainer as claimed in Claims 1 - 3 wherein the cable/flex is joined to the upper part of the receptacle to lessen the chances of the container overturning if accidentally dropped.
5. A portable drink/food container restrainer as claimed in Claims 1 - 4 wherein the coiled cable/flex reduces the chance of entanglement and is of a length that makes the container accessible to the user in its unextended, partially extended and fully extended state to fulfil the user's needs.
6. A portable drink/food container restrainer as claimed in Claims 1 - 5 wherein the attaching device can easily be attached to and released from a receiving agent, e.g. a baby's buggy/pram/highchair harness, a user's belt or button hole etc.
7. A portable drink/food container restrainer substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 - 4 of the accompanying drawing.